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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am writing regarding the letter dated 15 August 1995 from Mr. A. Izetbegović addressed to you (S/1995/698, annex).

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strongly rejects the accusations contained in the letter as baseless, senseless and ill-intentioned. The letter represents a flagrant example of interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and reveals what the true intentions of the Muslim authorities in Sarajevo are.

Instead of showing compassion for the plight of the Serb refugees from the Krajina who were expelled from their ancestral homes by the Croatian aggression and understanding for the readiness of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to provide conditions necessary for their accommodation in its territory, Mr. Izetbegović went as far as to make the absurd claim that there was an intention on the part of my Government to "change the ethnic character of Sandžak in favour of the Serb population, by force".

Mr. Izetbegović should know that the region of Raška (Sandžak) is an integral part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that it is the sovereign right of any Government to decide where in its territory refugees will be accommodated. Faced with a humanitarian catastrophe, caused by the genocide of the Croatian authorities against the Serb people, particularly in the Krajina, heightened by the harsh regime of sanctions and insufficient international humanitarian relief, the Yugoslav Government is doing its utmost urgently to ensure shelter for the refugees and providing accommodation throughout the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.